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R E Z A N O V

A PLAY
IN
THREE ACTS
WITH
EPILOGUE

BY
EUELL LABHARD

PS
3523
A2
R49
1900z

CHARACTERS IN THE DRAMA

Count Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov,
Chamberlain to Alexander I of Russia
Dr. George von Langsdorff, Physician
and Botonist with Rezanov
Lieutenant Gavril Michailovich Davidovv
Lieutenant Alexander Ivanovich Khvostov
Don Jose Joaquin Arillaga, Governor of
California under Spain
Don Jose Dario Arguello, Commentande of the
Yerba Buena Presidio
Don Luis Antonio Arguello, His son, in charge
of the Presidio when Rezanov arrived
Dona Maria Concepcion Marcela Arguello,
Don Jose's daughter
Santiago Arguello, a young Son
Dona Maria Ignacia de Arguello,
Don Jose's wife
Padre de La Cueva
Dr. Ivan Petrov, Head Physician at Irkutsk
Vladimir Vasilov, Assisting Physician to Petrov at
Krazhnayarsk
Dmitri Pavlovich, Cossack Officer with Rezanov

The time is 1806

REZANOV

ACT ONE

THE COMMENDANTE'S HOUSE IS SEEN AT THE STAGE RIGHT. ON THE LEFT IS A RISE WHICH OVERLOOKS YULUPA STRAITS, (THE GOLDEN GATE) IN YERBE BUENA(SAN FRANCISCO). THE TIME IS MARCH 29, 1806. IT IS 7:30 a.m. Concepcion is standing on the rise overlooking the straits.

Concha

It is a lonely watch, Father,
With me here. Luis won't believe.(SHE WALKS HIGHER
ON THE RISE.
I alone know it will happen.
SHE PICKS UP SAND AND LETS IT FLOW THROUGH HER FINGERS
I can't tell others. They would just laugh.
They always do.
Why must I be the only one?

LUIS

ENTERS AND WALKS TO HIS SISTER.
Clear morning, Concha!

CONCHA

What brings you up so early?

LUIS

I saw you from my window,
And I thought my sister was up to something.
So, here I am!

CONCHA

And what would I be up to?

LUIS

I wish I knew.
I'd probably still be in bed, if I did know.

CONCHA

Then go back to your sleep!

LUIS

Oh, no. (PAUSE) What is it, Concha?

Nothing! CONCHA

Tell me. LUIS

I said nothing! CONCHA

Concha! LUIS

Go away. (LOOKS TO YULUPA STRAIT) CONCHA

What's so interesting in Yulupa Straits?
(PAUSE) Little Sister? LUIS

You wouldn't believe me. CONCHA

Oh! LUIS

Go back to bed. CONCHA

What is it, Concha? LUIS

Luis, you always laugh. CONCHA

Sometimes you're very funny, Concha. LUIS

But not when I know. CONCHA

Oh, one of those! LUIS

Already you're making fun. CONCHA

Nonsense, Concha.
What is it you see this time? LUIS

CONCHA
A ship,

LUIS
But there is no ship.

CONCHA
It hasn't come in sight yet.

LUIS
Concha...this is too much...

CONCHA
It's coming from the North.
Probably an English ship, as Father said.

LUIS
There are no ships from up North.

CONCHA
There will be one...this morning.
I have been waiting for it since ^{before} dawn.

LUIS
Suppose a ship did come into Yulupa Strait...

CONCHA
Not suppose...when!

LUIS
What would we do?
Our guns haven't been fired this year.

CONCHA
I can see it in my mind.

LUIS
Whims, Concha.

CONCHA
Truth. (LUIS LAUGHS)

LUIS
You dream, Concha

CONCHA

Wait till the ship comes.

LUIS

(JESTING) A ship from out the North will come...
With cannon lined upon the deck,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!
And men with unkemt hair and beards,
With cutlass drawn to storm our shores,
Heigh ho...heigh ho! (LAUGHS HEARTILY)

CONCHA

Laugh, Luis. It may be your last.

LUIS

(POINT TO STRAITS) There are no ships.

CONCHA

You'll see one soon.

LUIS

It's more fun to ride into the hills
Than wait for ghost ships.

CONCHA

Go ahead and laugh.

LUIS

I didn't laugh at you, Conchita. God forbid.

CONCHA

You think I'm a child, but wait!

LUIS

We all wait in California.
This is a land that time and Kings forget.
We wait for guns to guard our shores.
We wait for cloth, for tools to till our soil.
The Padres wait, but they are patient men.(PAUSE)
Yes, Conchita, I may wait a lifetime!

CONCHA

But not for my ship. (WALKS TO LOOK OUT POINT)

LUIS

Can't you see there is no ship?

CONCHA

From out the North a ship will come
Into the Straits this every morn,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!
Strange men from foreign lands it brings,
Who speak in tongues we do not know,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!
And I shall find a man to love,
Who'll take me to his foreign home,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!

LUIS

CONCEPCION!

CONCHA

Yes, Luis, dear brother!

LUIS

You are a child,
And a mad one at that!

CONCHA

Humph!

LUIS

A man to love....what a fantasy.

CONCHA

What fun!

LUIS

If Spain were our home
We might find time for dreaming, both of us,
But this is not Spain, Concha.
A crude outpost,
Where little traffic graces our shore.
So you, little sister,
Must do all the dreaming.

CONCHA

Leave me alone to wait.

LUIS

No more ships.

CONCHA

Away!

LUIS

Down from the North.....

CONCHA

(RUSHING TOWARD HIM) Go!

LUIS

(WALKING AWAY) My lovely ship....I'll...

CONCHA

Luis!

LUIS

(STOPPING AND LOOKING BACK) You called, Concha?
(LUIS WALKS OFF STAGE)

CONCHA

SHE GOES TO THE PEAK OF THE RISE AGAIN AND LOOKS
OUT. SHE STANDS FOR A MOMENT , THEN TURNS AND
WALKS DOWN CENTER. SHE CROSSES HERSELF)

Oh pensive sky
That follows after dawn,
Like second night,
Fog filled, with sunlight gone.
What strange misgivings do I feel;
My heart b_eats fast,
As if an earthquake shook the land.
(WALKS UP TO THE RISE)
There is no ship in the Strait.
And yet I feel.....
Maybe Luis is right, I am foolish,
And yet...
(LONGINGLY)
From out the North a ship will come,
To bring me love and sorrow great,
Heigh ho.....
(MUSING) Strange men from foreign lands are neigh....
(DAY DREAMING)
Height ho....heigh ho!

MAN

(OFF) Luis!

2ND MAN

(OFF) Ring the bell!

MAN

(OFF) Luis...a ship! Luis,..come here, Luis!
A ship has come in sight!

CONCHA

Luis....a ship. Luis, come here.
It is no dream, Luis!

(BELL RINGS OFF. PEOPLE RUN ON STAGE WITH CONCHA
ON T E RISE)

MEN

It steers from Northern shores. Luis, come see!

WOMEN

The Commendante said that ships might come.

MAN

What ship is it?

2nd MAN

It's too far off.

CONCHA

You men, to arms. Prepare the guns. (ALL START)

LUIS

(ENTERING) What's this noise?

CON CHA

A ship sails from the North.

LUIS

(LOOKS AT CONCHA THEN RUNS TO PEAK) My God, no!

CONCHA

I told the men to get the guns prepared.

LUIS

Where's the glass.
This ship may be from Spain.

CONCHA

Not from the North, Luis.

LUIS

Santiago, get Father's glass!

SANTIAGO
Yes, Luis! (EXITS)

CONCHA
Man the guns!

LUIS
Stay where you are.

CONCHA
Hurry!

LUIS
And I say stay.
I am the Commendante here
Until my Father returns.

CONCHA
Fools, destroy their boat!

LUIS
Concha, be still!
This is not for women to decide.

CONCHA
Nor cowards!

LUIS
Our short ranged guns
Haven't been fired this year.
If that ship's Captain chose
We would stand to lose heavily
Both in men, and possessions.
We won't fight...not yet!

CONCHA
Go, man the guns! (MEN IGNORE HER)
Sink this foreign ship.

MAN
It may not be foreign.

CONCHA
And I say go!

WOMAN
She may be right, Luis!

LUIS

Our powder won't last a hundred shots.
(TO CONCHA) Would you have us blown to bits?

ALL MEN AND WOMEN

No!

SANTIAGO

(ENTERING) The glass, Luis! (LUIS SCANS THE STRAIT)

WOMAN

What ship, Luis?

MAN

What ship?

LUIS

It is foreign.

CONCHA

I told you. Man the guns!

MEN

(START TO MOVE) Man the guns!

LUIS

Stop! (ALL STOP)

MAN

Is it a man-o-war?

2nd MAN

A trader?

WOMAN

What is it, Luis?

3rd MAN

Is the ship small?

LUIS

It's decks are lined with guns.

WOMEN

(SCREAM)

MAN

Alas for us!

WOMAN

What will we do?

CONCHA

Prepare the guns. (MEN SCATTER)

MEN

Be ready for their blows.

CONCHA

(TO WOMEN) Ride to the Mission.
Tell the Padres to send Indians.

MEN

(GOING OUT) Away to the guns.

LUIS

Silence, you fools. Come back here.
Remember I'm in charge.

MAN

But a foreign ship, Luis!

WOMAN

They may not spare our lives!

LUIS

No guns have fired.

CONCHA

I warned you, Luis!

LUIS

Yes, you did. Concepcion, I order you inside.

MAN

She may be right!

LUIS

Then I'll take the blame.

MAN

A captured fort with dead men
And women raped
Is not a medal you could wear.

CONCHA

To the guns.

MEN

To the guns!

WOMEN

To the Mission! (EVERYONE STARTS OFF)

LUIS

Stop. Stop, I say! (ALL STOP)
To most of us
This is our native home,
And Spanish orders still command.
We're a peaceful nation,
Not here to kill, but to save.
Our destiny is in God's hands.
His great Catholic Majesty
Would greet these sailors
And show them every kindness.
Can we do less?
We are not fighters,
But peace loving people. (PAUSE)
Prepare to meet this ship and its men.
Away...saddle up!(ENTER PADRE DE LA CUEVE)

PADRE

Peace be with you. (MAKES SIGN OF THE CROSS)

BE

ALL

Peace/with you, Padre.

PADRE

What is the noise!

LUIS

A foreign ship in the Straits.

PADRE

Trouble?

LUIS

She is armed.

CONCHA
I tried to warn him!

PADRE
Luis?

LUIS
A wrong move by us, Padre,
Could spell disaster.

PADRE
That's sound!

LUIS
We'll meet this Captain
And show him every courtesy.

CONCHA
And what if he meets you with guns?

PADRE
It isn't likely!

CONCHA
But Father warned.....

PADRE
Luis knows best.

CONCHA
I plead with you to listen.

PADRE
You're still a child, my dear. (TO LUIS)
Shall we go?

LUIS
You, Padre?

PADRE
In peace and war. It is the same.
My place is with my people.

LUIS
(TO MEN) Let us go!

CONCHA

Luis, please listen to me!

LUIS

Away. (EXEUNT ALL MEN)

CONCHA

Listen , Luis.....Luis.....Luis!

CONCHA WATCHES THE MEN AS THEY LEAVE OFF STAGE. SHE GOES TO THE RISE AND WATCHES BOAT. THEN CROSSES HERSELF AND KNEELS IN PRAYER.

END OF SCENE I

A C T I

Scene Two

IGNACIA

Is there fruit?

1ST WOMAN

In abundance.

IGNACIA

And chocolate?

2ND WOMAN

Ready in a moment.

CONCHA

They are landed. (LOOKING OFF FROM HIGH POINT)

IGNACIA

Good!

CONCHA

(MUSING) There are four....
From out the North....

IGNACIA

What did you say?

CONCHA

I said, "One day I'll leave this home...

IGNACIA

Nonesense.

CONCHA

And when I do I shall never return.

IGNACIA

Another dream, Child?

CONCHA

No, Mother. No dream.

IGNACIA

We must hurry.
Our guests will be here in a moment.

1ST WOMAN

Look!

WOMEN

We are frightened!

IGNACIA

Stop this. These men will not hurt you.

CONCHA

(LOOKING OFF) Love comes....
Could I be right? Or...

2ND WOMAN

All is ready.

IGNACIA

Prepare to meet our guests.

LUIS

(OFF) This way, Your Excellency.

CONCHA

(TO HERSELF) Excellemcy!
The tall one from my dream.
Who is he?
Does he bring me woe or exaltation?

ENTER LUIS...LEADING SANTIAGO, PADRE CUEVA, MEN AND
REZANOV, KHVOSTOV AND DAVIDOV AND LANGSDORFF. THE
RUSSIANS ARE ALL IN UNIFORM.

LUIS

(TO THE ASSEMBLED) My friends, I have the honor to
present His Excellency, Lord High Chamberlain, from
the Imperial Court of Russia, Count Nikolai Petrovich
Rezanov.

CROWD

(VISABLY SHAKEN - TURN AND WHISPER TO ONE ANOTHER)
Don Jose was right.....
They are Russians....
Will they harm us....

CONCHA

It is he I saw in my mind. I am afraid.

LUIS

(INTRODUCING) My Mother, Ignacia Arguello.
She is a Moraga, Count Rezanov.

REZANOV

Senora, I am honored. (HE BOWS AND KISSES HER HAND)

CONCHA

(MUSING) Rezanov! Hmm.
Why would a Count
Come to a miserable outpost like this?

LUIS

My Sister, Concepcion Marcela.

REZANOV

How lovely! (HE BOWS. DOES NOT KISS HAND)

LUIS

She is a strange one, Excellency.

REZANOV

How so? (NOT TAKING HIS EYES OFF HER)

LUIS

She dreams of things that come true.

REZANOV

How interesting?

LUIS

She told me your ship would come from the North
Long before it came in sight.

REZANOV

I too have such dreams, my Dear.
We shall understand each other well.

CONCHA

Yes, Count Rezanov, we shall. (COURTSEY)

ALL THE RUSSIANS LOOK AT CONCHA. SHE SEES ONLY REZANOV

LUIS

Dr. Langsdorff, my family and friends,
And Lieutenants Khvostov and Davidov.

IGNACIA
(GOING TO MEN) Accept my welcome.

REZANOV
Thank you, Senora.
Alexander, the Czar of all Russia,
Shall hear of this courtesy to us.

IGNACIA
My friends, (REZANOV AND OTHERS SMILE) we have prepared
hot chocolate and fruits that are in season. Come,
follow me. (EXEUNT ALL BUT LUIS AND CONCHA)

LUIS
(WATCHING CONCHA LOOKING THROUGH THE DOOR) Why don't
you follow?

CONCHA
It is he.

LUIS
(PUZZLED) What?

CONCHA
The man I told you about.
I will marry him.

LUIS
(LAUGHS) Such an important man must have a wife at home.

CONCHA
Ask him, Luis.

LUIS
What kind of a question would that be?

CONCHA
He is not married.

LUIS
Conchita...my little Sister...
Dream your dreams,
But don't forget you live in Yerba Fuena,
And not Madrid.

CONCHA

I am not a little Sister,
And Luis, I will marry this Count. (PAUSE)
Or I will marry no one!

LUIS

One hour ago you wanted...
In your words, Concha,
To blow this man to bits.
Now you want to marry him.
I find you difficult to understand.

CONCHA

Because you do not live in my mind, Luis.
Now that I have seen His Excellency
I know much about him...why he is here...

LUIS

Why is he here?

CONCHA

To trade.

LUIS

Impossible, as he will find out.

CONCHA

But he will change this law.
I know, Luis, like the ship!
From out the North a ship will come
To bring me love, (PAUSE) and sorrow great....
Heigh ho, heigh ho!

LUIS

Stop this day dreaming, Concha.
It becomes absurd.

CONCHA

It is my fate, Luis,
And not a dream, as you call it.

LUIS

Fate, ha!

CONCHA

There is something strange in store for me;
I don't know what it is. I don't know!
From out the North a ship will come....
(WALKS OVER AND LOOKS INSIDE HOUSE)
Heightho,....heigh ho.
(TO LUIS) It is our destiny that we should meet!

LUIS

Your destiny?

CONCHA

This man will change the world.

LUIS

Another dream!

CONCHA

You'll never understand me, Luis,
Because you live by the laws of Spain,
Instead of the laws of God.
Your mind doesn't see the future.
This is a new land!
You don't see it!
Your Spain is five thousand miles away
And two hundred years back in progress.
It has forgotten we exist,
If it ever knew,
And a man like Rezanov knows this.
A clear look shows his power.
He has a fierceness
Which will alter the world
To fit his ideas.

LUIS

You think this, Concha?

CONCHA

Yes. It will happen.
We are a part of this change.
I know I am;
Just how I am not sure.
I am afraid, Luis. You should have fired
When first I begged this morning. (PAUSE)
From out the North a ship will come
To bring me love.....

LUIS

I must go to our guests.
It would be well for you too, Concha.

(REENTER LANGSDORFF AND CUEVA)

LANGSDORFF

Brilliant, yes, but strict.
Nothing escapes him. (SEES LUIS)
Ah, Don Luis, such delicious breakfast!
It is a treat for all of us.
At Sitka, Ach! (MAKES FACE)
Sea Otters and fish every day.

LUIS

Food here is plentiful.

CONCHA

(TO LUIS) They came to trade, see?

CUEVA

Dr. Langsdorff is a botanist.

CONCHA

Oh, then you will find our California
A land worthy of your pursuits.

LANGSDORFF

It is my hope.
Thank you, Senorita.

LUIS

Excuse us. We must see our guests.

(EXEUNT LUIS AND CONCHA)

LANGSDORFF

(LOOKING AFTER CONCHA)

I have travelled over much of the earth,
And no where have I seen such a beautiful young lady
As the Senorita.

CUEVA

Doctor, no maid in all California
Has beauty like hers.

LANGSDORFF

I could be. (PAUSE)
I was observing the flora on the hillside
When we were riding here.

CUEVA

Would you care to have a closer look?

LANGSDORFF

Father Cueva, let me tell Rezanov.
My every move must be sanctioned by him.

(ENTER REZANOV, KHVOSTOV, DAVIDOV, LUIS & CONCHA

CUEVA

Here he comes.
Your Excellency, I offered Dr. Langsdorff
A chance to see some of our California flora.
Would you and your officers join us?

REZANOV

Thank you, Father. Dr. Langsdorff
Will have to represent us.
It is he who has such interests.
The good doctor has many facets, Father,
And his energies carry him in many directions,
Directions other than those required by our mission.

CUEVA

Then you don't mind, Excellency,
If he joins me?

REZANOV

Not at all.

CUEVA

Thank you.

LANGSDORFF

Thank you, Excellency.

CUEVA

We will not be long. (EXEUNT LANGSDORFF AND CUEVA)

LUIS

A dispatch is being sent to my Father.

REZANOV

And to the Governor?

LUIS

Of course.

REZANOV

We will sail to Monterey in a day or two.

LUIS

I suggest you wait.

REZANOV

(BOWING) I am your guest.

CONCHA

Perhaps Father will choose to meet you here.

REZANOV

(TO LUIS) You will want to see my papers.

LUIS

(CONFUSED) Papers?

REZANOV

Explaining my mission in these waters.

LUIS

Uh...oh yes.

CONCHA

I know your mission, Excellency.

REZANOV

The Senorita who dreams of things that come true?
I would hear more!

LUIS

She will bend your ear with strangeness.

REZANOV

Never under estimate a dreamer.
They often see truth.

CONCHA

You came here to trade, Count Rezanov.

LUIS

Concha!

CONCHA

Did you not, Senor?

REZANOV

I...trade? Why...the thought of...trade...
Is not trading forbidden in all Spanish colonies?

LUIS

You must excuse Conception.
She believes she has all the answers for all questions.

REZANOV

With your imagination, Senorita,
You must have many right ones.

CONCHA

Your Excellency, I have certain knowledge
Which I find to be true.

REZANOV

My wife's stepmother, Madame Shelkova is like this.

CONCHA

Oh? (PAUSE) Do you have children?

REZANOV

A boy and a girl.

CONCHA

Does your wife ever go with you when you travel?

REZANOV

She died when my daughter was born, Senorita.

(CONCHA LOOKS AT LUIS - HE DROPS HIS EYES

CONCHA

My deepest apologies, Senor.

REZANOV

You could not know.

LUIS

Uh...perhaps his Excellency would care to....

CONCHA

Another time, Luis.

LUIS

But....

CONCHA

Why not take our other guests.
I would speak with Count Rezanov.

LUIS

You see, Excellency, in Yerba Buena
All people are under the spell
Of my "little" sister.

(LUIS, KHVOSTOV AND DAVIDOV EXEUNT)

REZANOV

Are ALL people under your spell?

CONCHA

My brother jests.

REZANOV

Because I would join the others.

CONCHA

You?

REZANOV

It must make this haven a paradise.

CONCHA

Now you jest, Excellency!

REZANOV

Have you always lived here?

CONCHA

I was born in this house.

REZANOV

The outside world, does it interest you?

CONCHA

Yes, but for me it's like reaching for the moon.
That which I find beautiful I cannot grasp.

REZANOV

The world is not always beautiful.
Where we just came from it was ugly,
Because there is misery.
Privation rules the land,
And people exist from day to day.
Great challenges must be met,
And many do not survive.
This beautiful earth has great grey areas.

CONCHA

Is all Russia like this?

REZANOV

(LAUGHS) No, Senorita, Russia is the land
Where beauty first found life.
The classic loveliness of Petersburg,
The romantic color of Moscow,
The bells of Novgorod,
Old Kiev, the dream city,
Odessa, the pearl on the Southern Sea,
And on and on....

CONCHA

But you said....

REZANOV

Sitka, Unalaska, Russian-America.
Wealth is made there, but hope dies.

CONCHA

Tell me about your land.

REZANOV

Our great cities are filled with splendor!

CONCHA

Would I like them?

REZANOV

They are the homes of dreamers, like you.
Their gayety would fill your being,
And life would have purpose.
You would blossom, Senorita,
In the richness of my land.
Yes, you would love Russia,
But even more, Russia would soon find you
Tucked in the folds of its heart,
For we love the beautiful in people.

CONCHA

There must be much in your life
To thrill and transport you.

REZANOV

Yes.

CONCHA

To be born in such a world!

REZANOV

But there are times
When all I know and possess
Is not enough,
When the beauty of home is incomplete
And satisfies me not.

CONCHA

What is your great desire, Excellency?

REZANOV

To rule! To govern large areas of land.

CONCHA

Do you not govern in Russian-America?

REZANOV

Not people...Pomishleniki.
I have only contempt for such.
I established churches and schools,
And they remain unattended. Muzheeks!

CONCHA

What?

REZANOV

Peasants...like the Indians I see here.

CONCHA

Their lot is difficult!

REZANOV

Why?

CONCHA

Because in bringing them knowledge
And an understanding of God,
We must change their thinking
And their spirit.

REZANOV

Yes. I can understand.

CONCHA

In a way it is like you,
Forgive me, Excellency!

REZANOV

What do you mean?

CONCHA

You come to California to trade...no?

REZANOV

Must I answer?

CONCHA

I see this in you.

REZANOV

Your powers are remarkable.
But, why am I like your Indian serfs?

CONCHA

Because your spirit can be broken.

REZANOV

(PAUSE) How?

CONCHA

When your dreams for trading are smashed.
It could happen, you know.

REZANOV

It already has...in Japen.
As an Ambassador there
I was a virtual prisoner in a stockade.

CONCHA

A prisoner?

REZANOV

For six long months.

CONCHA

I too am like this, Excellency.
I am impatient...
Wanting what I feel is right,
But wanting it right now.
I am unwilling to wait.
For me, everything must happen yesterday,
Not tomorrow, because tomorrow may never come.
And today is sometimes too late.

REZANOV

How do you know this of me?

CONCHA

It shows.

REZANOV

My God!

CONCHA

Not everyone can see it.

REZANOV

I must guard my thoughts
So that even you are not aware.

CONCHA

Impossible.

REZANOV

I'm inclined to believe you.

CONCHA

You can, Excellency, because I am truthful!

REZANOV

Tell me, Senorita,

What is it you wish for?

CONCHA

A bigger share of life
Than can be found in Yerba Buena,
Or even Spanish California.

REZANOV

Madrid?

CONCHA

Perhaps.

REZANOV

Rome...London...Berlin..
Ah, I know....Vienna!

CONCHA

What is Vienna like?

REZANOV

The gayest city in all the earth!
There is music and dance,
And laughter,
And such happiness is in Vienna
That even the Gods smile.
Sorrow turns away its face
At the city's gates,
And it is rummored
That when the Viennese sleep
The streets and houses
Continue to sing the whole night through.
Of course, that is difficult to prove.
But that, Senorita, is Vienna.

CONCHA

I must go there and visit Vineea!

REZANOV

No, you must live there.
It is the Dreamer's paradise.

CONCHA

Count Rezanov!

REZANOV

Have I offended?

CONCHA

Yerba Buena is all I know.
My chances of leaving here, ha!
It may never happen.
So, when you speak of Vienna,
The Dreamer's paradise,
I realize, like the moon, it is out of my grasp.

REZANOV

Not so!

CONCHA

Yes, Senor.

REZANOV

The world is young for you,
And your time is not yet,
But before you, this whole world
Can be unveiled.

CONCHA

Yes, Senor Rezanov. (PAUSE) Perhaps the whole earth!

(CONCHA LOOKS OUT OVER THE YALUPA STRAITS. REZANOV WATCHES HER)

REZANOV

Your thoughts seem far away.

CONCHA

Your earth lies in them,
But who will make it possible?

REZANOV

Someone, surely.

CONCHA

You, Count Rezanov? (SHE FACES HIM)

REZANOV

(LAUGHS WEAKLY) No, Senorita, not I.
No...not I, someone...

CONCHA

Excellency, you will remember
I am not patient.
When I was born God must have been in a hurry,
For during my life
Everything seems to come late,
If it comes at all.

REZANOV

You are too young for such thinking.
At my age, yes.
I can afford these thoughts.
I have said to myself many times,
"Nikolai Petrovich...
Why must this happen this way?"
And I have no answer.

CONCHA

Count Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov!
What a strange name.

REZANOV

Not at all. My Father's name was Pyotr,
And mine is Nikolai.
In Russia every child honors his Father...
And takes his name as the second,
So, I am Nikolai, son of Pyotr.

CONCHA

Even girls?

REZANOV

Yes. If you were my daughter....

CONCHA

Your daughter!

REZANOV

You would be concepcion Nikolaiovna,
Daughter of Nikolai.

CONCHA

(SLOWLY AND WITH MEANING)

What if I were your wife, Senor?

REZANOV

(SUDDENLY SHOCKED HE LOOKS AWAY)

My...my wife?

I...I do not know your Father's name...

So I cannot translate!

CONCHA

My Father's name is Jose.

REZANOV

Senorita...I am tired. Our journey has been long.
I feel I must....I...

(ENTER LUIS...KHBOSTOV AND DAVIDOV)

LUIS

Excellency, we have toured the Presidio.
I hope my Sister...

REZANOV

(LOOKING AT CONCHA) Your Sister, Don Luis,
I find most engaging...most...most interesting.

CONCHA

(TO REZANOV) But always too late, Senor.

REZANOV

Your day is not yet, Concepcion Joseovna.
One day...Vienna!

LUIS

Vienna, Excellency?

REZANOV

You must excuse us.
We have much work on our ship.

LUIS

I have arranged for food to take aboard.
When you are ready our men will escort you.
My Mother is preparing dinner, Excellency,
And of course we can expect you,
Your officers and Dr. Langsdorff?

CONCHA

You will come?

REZANOV

We are honored!

LUIS

The horses will be sent for you.

REZANOV

(GOES TO CONCHA AND KISSES HER HAND)
I shall look forward to being your guest this evening.

CONCHA

(CURTSYING) Perhaps you will tell me more about Vienna!

REZANOV

The whole earth, Senorita!

CURTAIN

ACT I SCENE 2

ACT II

THE SCENE IS THE SAME AS ACT I...OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF THE ARGUELIOS. CONCHA AND HER MOTHER ARE ALONE. IT IS FIVE DAYS SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE RUSSIANS AT YERBA BUENA.

CONCHA

But I know this man, Mamma.

IGNACIA

In five days?

CONCHA

We are very much alike in many respects.
I see things the way he does.

IGNACIA

Impossible!

CONCHA

No, it's true.
You may not believe this,
But I know His Excellency, Count Rezanov,
Better than any man in Spanish California.

IGNACIA

I never heard such a tale in all my life.
In five days you can know so much!
Concha, you are still a little girl.

CONCHA

Mamma, to you I shall always be,
Yes most everyone I know considers me a woman.
I am not a child,
Nor do I think like one.

IGNACIA

Why did the Ambassador bring us so many lovely gifts?

CONCHA

For two reasons, Mamma.
I believe he genuinely appreciates our hospitality,
And second, he has a boatload of materials
With which he hopes to trade for food.

IGNACIA

Did he say so?

CONCHA

No!

IGNACIA

The Governor will not allow it.

CONCHA

But he is not all of California.

IGNACIA

He is the Voice.

What Don Jose says is the law of the land.
There will be no trading with the Russians.

CONCHA

Perhaps, Mamma!

IGNACIA

When did Luis say they would return?

CONCHA

He didn't; however, they will not be long.
I feel His Excellency is very near.

IGNACIA

It is not right for you to have such feelings.

CONCHA

I can't help it.
Before the ship arrived I knew it was near.
In my mind I saw Rezanov
As plainly as if he were standing
Directly in front of me.
And I see him now, Mamma.
He is telling Luis,
"I haven't seen such an abundance
Since I last visited the Crimea."
Where is the Crimea, Mamma?

IGNACIA

I never heard of such a place.
How could you know what is being said?

CONCHA

I don't know.,
But it's like I'm inside his head.
What he thinks I somehow know.

IGNACIA

Madre mia!

CONCHA

And yet, Mamma, when I am with him
This is not so.
Only when he is away does this happen.

IGNACIA

You must talk to Padre Abello about this.
Inside His Excellency's head! (CROSSES HERSELF)
Mother of God, have mercy on my child!
Have you told the Ambassador?

CONCHA

He would be shocked.

IGNACIA

Indeed! He would not be the only one.
When you see Padre Abello....

CONCHA

Yes, Mamma, I will tell him.

IGNACIA

This doesn't seem to bother you.

CONCHA

I can't help it; it happens.
I don't try to make it happen.
It just does. There is nothing I can do.
Why should I be bothered?

IGNACIA

Inside His Excellency's head! (CROSSES HERSELF)

SANTIAGO ENTERS

SANTIAGO

Luis and Count Rezanov are in sight.

IGNACIA

Tell Maria to fix chocolate,
And prepare the table here in the patio.
Our guests will probably enjoy eating out here.

SANTIAGO

Yes, Mamma. (EXITS)

CONCHA

Nikolai Petrovich is feeling better.

IGNACIA
When was he not well?

CONCHA
When he arrived.
His entire crew was ill.

IGNACIA
He told you this?

CONCHA
No.

IGNACIA
Inside his head? (WOMEN ENTER WITH FOOD - SET TABLE)

CONCHA
Yes, Mamma

IGNACIA
Do you call him by that funny name?

CONCHA
He asked me to.

IGNACIA
It is not right.
You are a young girl,
And he is old enough to be your Father.

CONCHA
Father?

IGNACIA
Yes, father.

CONCHA
Do you not like our Russian friends?

IGNACIA
I like them.
I also like our Spanish ways.
You are Spanish, Concha. Do not forget it.

CONCHA
How could I?

IGNACIA
Do not become Russian.

CONCHA
(LAUGHS) You're funny, Mamma.

Or are you? (LOOKING TOWARD YULUPA STRAITS)

LUIS

(OFF) Come this way, Excellency.

REZANOV

(OFF) Again your kindness.

IGNACIA

Keep away from inside his head.

CONCHA

If I can.

ENTER LUIS, REZANOV, LTS KHVOSTOV, DAVIDOV AND LANGSDORFF

LUIS

We are famished after so good a ride!

REZANOV

(GOING TO IGNACIA AND KISSING HER HAND)
Madame, your Son is a most gracious host.

IGNACIA

Thank you, your Excellency.

REZANOV

When can we expect your Husband and the Governor?

IGNACIA

While you were out a rider came.
He said they will arrive this evening.

REZANOV

I look forward to this meeting.

IGNACIA

Did you enjoy our countryside?

REZANOV

I was telling Luis,
After riding many miles,
I haven't seen such abundance
Since I last visited the Crimea,
And that has been ten years or more.

IGNACIA LOOKS AT CONCHA HORROR-STRUCK

IGNACIA

Where is the Crimea?

REZANOV

In the south of Russia, Madame.
The Crimea could feed the world
With its vast agricultural development.
Your California has much the same soil!
Rich, and fertile.

CONCHA

If this is true, Excellency,
Why does Russian-America need food?
Could not Russia supply it?

REZANOV

Senorita, the Crimea is four thousand miles away
With impossible roads to travel.
It would take forever to bring food.
The idea is wonderful,
But totally impractical.

IGNACIA GOES TO HELP WITH THE TABLE...LUIS AND THE TWO
LIEUTENANTS AND LANGSDORFF ARE AT ONE SIDE OF THE PATIO AND
CONCHA AND REZANOV ARE AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

CONCHA

Excellency, your trade hopes can be smashed,
Yet I know how they can succeed.

REZANOV

(LOOKING INTENTLY AT HER) Excellency?

CONCHA

Nikolai Petrovich.

REZANOV

I like that better.
How do you propose I proceed?

CONCHA

Let me and some of the other young women
Invade your ship.
Then after seeing all your cargo,
Perhaps the impact....

REZANOV

Concepcion...of course!
Could we do it right after lunch?

CONCHA

I will go and talk to my friends.

REZANOV

Padre de La Cueva, already has seen our ship.

CONCHA

I know. That's what gave me the idea.

REZANOV

It could work!

CONCHA

The Padres and the women will do it.
Even Governor Arrillaga won't refuse.
You see, Nikolai Petrovich,
Word will spread throughout all California.

REZANOV

So far?

CONCHA

You have shown us brocades, silks, ribbons, linens
And many female things.
Padre de La Cueva says you have a boat loaded
With the hardware necessary for tilling the soil,
And with all the furror,
When this knowledge spreads,
The Governor will have to accede to your wishes.

REZANOV

And so, petty politics, my little dreamer,
Are about to tear down the established laws
Of Ancient Imperial Spain.
Why do you do this?

CONCHA

I believe in you! ~~I~~ **I EVEN LOVE YOU!**

REZANOV

~~What?~~ I am not of your people.

CONCHA

You are my kind of people, Nikolai.
Remember? Impatient dreamers!

REZANOV

Ah, yes.

CONCHA

One day, perhaps you will ~~take~~ **TAKE ME,**
If the opportunity ever comes,
TO Your Homeland, your Russia.
You said, "The whole earth," remember?

REZANOV

The whole earth! **INDREED!**

LUIS

(LUIS OVER TO REZANOV) Come, Excellency, join us!

REZANOV

Thank you. (TO CONCHA) This afternoon, Senorita,
We shall visit the JUNO, **AND THEN, THE WHOLE EARTH!**

CONCHA

I will make arrangements now.

REZANOV

What a brilliant idea!

CONCHA

Nikolai Petrovich, I hope you will gain
Whatever it is you want in our Spanish California.
(PAUSES LOOKING AT HIM) Until later. (EXITS)

REZANOV

Everything I want. Hmm, there could be no end to that.
INCLUDING YOU, CONCHA!
LANGSDORFF

Excellency?

REZANOV

(LIKE COMING OUT OF A DREAM) Yes? What is it?

LANGSDORFF

Our ride this morning was most productive.
I obtained many fine specimens.

REZANOV

That is fine,
So long as it doesn't interfere
With the projects I have for you.

LANGSDORFF

But this is part of my contract with you!

REZANOV

The importance of our mission,
Dear Langsdorff,
Is to accomplish our trading goal.
After that your other work,
Important as it is to you,
Can be done on your own time.

LANGSDORFF

But Excellency!

REZANOV

Yes?

LANGSDORFF

I am the first naturalist in California!
What I do can have international recognition,
Can even make our mission look better ~~than~~ PETERSBURG.

REZANOV

Amazing! Congratulations.

LANGSDORFF

So, my work is important too.

REZANOV

I'm sure it is,
But our other mission comes first.

LANGSDORFF

They can overlap.

REZANOV

Your work comes second, at best, Langsdorff.
There will be no overlap.

LANGSDORFF

I will try to remember, Excellency.

REZANOV

You WILL remember, Langsdorff.

LANGSDORFF

Of course!

REZANOV

Alexander Ivanovich.

KHVOSTOV

Yes, Excellency.

REZANOV

You will go immediately to the JUNO.

KHVOSTOV

Yes, Sir.

REZANOV

Make sure the deck is clean,
Decks ladders, everything!
We are having guests visiting the ship today.

KHVOSTOV

The Padres?

REZANOV

The Senorita Arguello and her friends.
Ladies, Lieutenant!
See that the crew is presentable.

KHVOSTOV

Immediately!

REZANOV

Don Luis.

LUIS

Excellency!

REZANOV

Lt. Khvostov must go to the ship.

LUIS

The horses are ready.

SANTIAGO ENTERS HURREDLY AND GOES TO LUIS

SANTIAGO

Luis, Pappa and the Governor are coming!

LUIS

How soon?

SANTIAGO

Diego just rode in.
He says they will be here before sunset.

LUIS

Excellency, (TO REZANOV)

You will not have to wait longer.

I'm sure you will like both my Father and the Governor.

REZANOV

Good! I'm looking forward to this meeting.

You and your Mother must come aboard the JUNO

Together with Concepcion this afternoon.

I would like to show you our ship filled with treasures.

It will be quite an experience.

LUIS

We will be pleased to go, Excellency.

Mamma may be frightened of the boat,

But she will go.

CURTAIN

ACT II SCENE I

ACT II

Scene Two

THE SCENE IS THE LIVING ROOM OF THE COMMANDANTE HOUSE IN YERBA BUENA.

ARILLAGA

I can't put up with this!

ARGUELLO

It isn't right.

ARILLAGA

Who is responsible for this outrage?

ARGUELLO

Don Jose, I...I suspect...

ARILLAGA

The Russian?

ARGUELLO

No!

ARILLAGA

Who, then?

ARGUELLO

We have been friends for many years.

ARILLAGA

What are you trying to say?

ARGUELLO

It is difficult.

ARILLAGA

Come, we are friends, as you say.

ARGUELLO

My daughter, Concepcion.
I believe she is at the bottom of this.
It was she who visited the boat
That same day we arrived, remember?
I should have forbade her going,
But how could I have known.

ARILLAGA

No ! Concepcion couldn't be the one.

ARGUELLO

I suspect she could.

ARILLAGA

But why?

ARGUELLO

She is young.

ARILLAGA

So?

ARGUELLO

It is romantic.

ARILLAGA

Romantic to inflame the entire colony?

ARGUELLO

The people, as well as the Padres,
Know about every item on that boat.
My own family members have gifts.
Instead of hiding the news
It is spreading like wildfire.

ARILLAGA

I don't have to be told!
But why do you think Concepcion.....

ARGUELLO

She's not like any other member of my family.
I often have wondered how she could be born
To a family like mine.
She is a dreamer.
Yes, Concha is the only one.

ARILLAGA

The Padres?

ARGUELLO

No. Not the Padres.
They would not be interested in ribbons.
What would they know about brocades?
These are women's things.
Hardware, yes, but linens and silks, never.
No, Don Jose, in my mind
There is only Concepcion.

ARILLAGA

The Russian?

ARGUELLO

You keep bringing him into the picture,
But Jose, he is a trader.
How could he inflame the countryside?
It is someone more intimate,
Someone who knows our people.

ARILLAGA

I must talk to the Russian.

ARGUELLO

And I must talk to Concepcion.
Together they have stirred the hornets,
And we haven't begun to feel the sting.

ARILLAGA

It isn't easy to shoulder the weight
When foreign intruders invade our land.

ARGUELLO

This of course, isn't an invasion.

ARILLAGA

It might just as well be.
The Padres, conniving as they do!
They are worse than our ranchers,
And they do it in the name of God.

ARGUELLO

As long as that boat is in the harbor
It will continue.

ARILLAGA

When will they leave?

ARGUELLO

Who knows!

ARILLAGA

I'll ask Rezanov today.

ARGUELLO

His request for trade....

ARILLAGA

I refused flatly.

ARGUELLO

Did he object?

ARILLAGA

His Excellency is brilliant,
And whatever I said,
With all the weight of my office,
He side-tracked.
I suspect he will do this
When I ask how soon his boat will leave.
Rezanov is a formidable foe!

ARGUELLO

Yet I like him.

ARILLAGA

Oh, so do I!
You know where such a person stands.
He is shamefully truthful.
Spain could use such men!
My work would be easy
Were I to find one or two like him
To be my assistants.
We were like this, Jose, when we were young.
Ambitious, alert, Yes we were.
But alas, Spain forgets you
When you're five thousand miles away
In a tiny colony.

ARGUELLO

This is not tiny!

ARILLAGA

According to Spanish thinking it is!
They forget to send us supplies,
Because we are tiny...to them.

ARGUELLO

Luis and the Russians have arrived.
Do you want to talk to him now?

ARILLAGA

No! After dinner this evening.

ARGUELLO

If he insists?

ARILLAGA

No talking now ! I must rest.
It is siesta time.
I'll leave. If he asks for me
Tell him I will see him this evening.

ARGUELLO

Very well, Jose.

ARILLAGA LEAVES BY SIDE DOOR....LUIS AND REZANOV ENTER.

ARGUELLO

Excellency,
The Governor will see you this evening.

REZANOV

Good. I have some questions.
But it is really you I want to talk to now.

ARGUELLO

I?

REZANOV

Yes.

ARGUELLO

But I have no authority, Excellency,
To help you solve your problems here.

REZANOV

I believe you do.

LUIS

I leave you together. (EXITS)

ARGUELLO

Very well!

REZANOV

Senor Arguello...

ARGUELLO

Senor?

REZANOV

I must be very blunt.
There is a question only you can answer.

ARGUELLO

I am waiting, Excellency.

REZANOV

I will be leaving soon.....

ARGUELLO

That is good.

It is not right for a Russian,
Even though it is you, to be in these waters.

REZANOV

I want to take your daughter with me!

ARGUELLO

(ASTONISHED) Concepcion?

REZANOV

Yes. I wish to marry her.

ARGUELLO

You what? But...she is....
My daughter, Concepcion, is not...
Senor, have you been...

REZANOV

Senor Arguello...

ARGUELLO

She wouldn't want to go with you.
I...I forbid...

REZANOV

I believe she would.

ARGUELLO

But she is Spanish,
And this is her home....
Concepcion is our...
What have you said to her?
Have you been filling her with poison?
Seducing her with Russian ideas?

REZANOV

No Senor; I am above this. (PAUSE)
I would like your answer.

ARGUELLO

You must wait.....
Ignacia...she must help me.
And I must go to the Padres.
This is all so confusing!
Where is my daughter?
She will not want this for herself.
You have done something to my daughter.

REZANOV

I am honorable, Senor Arguello!

ARGUELLO

Yes...yes, I know...
But this isn't right.
You....You make this
Oh, God, why did you ever come to America?

REZANOV

Destiny brought me here.

ARGUELLO GOES TO THE DOOR. OPENS IT AND CALLS

ARGUELLO

Maria...send Concepcion in.
I want to talk to her. Ask Ignacia to come too.

REZANOV

Would you like me to leave, Senor,
While you talk?

ARGUELLO

Thank you, Excellency.

REZANOV

I shall await your answer, Senor,
In my cabin on the Juno.

ARGUELLO

If we were to decide in favor of your request
Where would you live?

REZANOV

All over the world, of course.
Some of the time in Russia,
Maybe Madrid,
And perhaps we would even live in California.
We will have many years in the Future,

Years to travel, to enjoy and understand.
I will be a good husband to Concha.

ARGUELLO

Naturally, Excellency...
I will come aboard the Juno
When we have an answer.

REZANOV

Senor! (EXITS)

ARGUELLO

Madre Dio...
Why did this have to happen.
We have been a happy people.
Invaders, that's what these Russians are.
They want to fill the world,
To ruin our lives.
I hate Russians.
They deceive men,
Are seducers of the world,
And where they go all things are destroyed.
Why did Rezanov come to Yerba Buena?

IGNACIA AND CONCEPCION ENTER

ARGUELLO

There you are!
Explain yourself, young woman!

CONCHA

What do you mean, Father?

ARGUELLO

You know what I mean,
You and this Rezanov....
What have you done together
That he would ask me such a question?

CONCHA

What question did he ask you?

IGNACIA

Yes, Jose. What do you mean?

ARGUELLO

To take you to Russia!
Is that the kind of a question
A respectable man would ask a father?

CONCHA

(ENTHUSIASTIC) He asked you for my hand?

IGNACIA

Mother of God!
How could you, Concha?

CONCHA

How could I what?
What are you accusing me of?

ARGUELLO

But he wants to marry you!

CONCHA

And I will marry him.

IGNACIA

You what?

CONCHA

Yes, Mother...and Father.
I love Nikolai.
And though he has not talked to me about it
I vow I will never marry another man.
I will marry his Excellency.

ARGUELLO

To take our daughter to Russia, Ignacia,
That is unforgivable!
We didn't rear our family
To have our daughters enraptured by the Russians,
Or to live half way around the globe.
This is seditious thinking for Spanish people.

CONCHA

Father, didn't you ask Mother's parents
When you wanted to get married?

ARGUELLO

But this was different!
We were both Spanish.
What do you know of Rezanov?

CONCHA

That he is a great man in his government,
That he is a fine person,
That he is truthful to us,
And I presume that he is also this way
To any other people.

ARGUELLO

Stop this. I forbid you to speak this way.

CONCHA

I love Count Rezanov, Father,
And I will marry him!

IGNACIA

Jose, let us go to the Padres.
I am confused.

ARGUELLO

You will go to confession, Concepcion,
And ask God's forgiveness.

CONCHA

For loving a man?

ARGUELLO

No, for loving a Russian!

IGNACIA

Stop this madness!
Let us hurry to the Mission.
And to think I almost like his Excellency!
What are we going to do?

ARGUELLO

Jose Joaquin thought Rezanov,
When he returned this afternoon,
Wanted to talk to him,
And he retired to rest.
Had I known all this
I too would have taken my Siesta.

IGNACIA

(CRYING) What are we going to do?

ARGUELLO

(TO OPEN DOOR) Luis...Luis! Come here!

CONCHA

You will let me marry him!

ARGUELLO

I forbid this marriage!

CONCHA

He will be my only husband!

ARGUELLO

(SLAPS CONCHA) Stop this sacrilege.
Rezanov is not even of our Faith.

IGNACIA

Oh, Mother of God!
What kind of a daughter are you?

LUIS ENTERS

LUIS

What's all this noise?

CONCHA

Nikolai asked Father for my hand.

LUIS

(THOUGHTFULLY) From out the North a ship will come
And soon it sails within the Strait...
Heigh ho...heigh he!
When that happened you were apprehensive.
And now?

CONCHA

I will marry him!

ARGUELLO

By God, you will not.
We are going to the Mission.
Get the horses ready, Luis.
My daughter will not marry a Russian...
Even the High Chamberlain.
I forbid this.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

Scene One

THE SCENE IS THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS ABOARD THE JUNO.
REZANOV IS PACING THE CABIN. LANGSDORFF IS WITH HIM.
AS REZANOV PACES HE OCCASIONALLY GOES TO THE PORT HOLE
AND LOOKS OUT.

REZANOV

Why in Heaven's name, do they take forever.
All they have to decide
Is a simple yes or no.
I fear if Arguello had to make a decision,
One with far reaching effects,
He couldn't do it.

LANGSDORFF

Meaning, Excellency?

REZANOV

The Priests would make the decision.
And he is the Commandante.
No wonder their life here,
With all it offers,
Is painfully slow.
Concepcion and Luis,
Of all the family,
Are the only ones with purpose in mind.
They seek out and do.
The rest are like the Indians.

LANGSDORFF

This kind of life can be healthful,
No worries to haunt one.
Food is abundant....

REZANOV

It's like living in a stagnant pool.
There's no place to go.
And what there is here is sluggish.
No Langsdorff, this is not for me.

LANGSDORFF

But what of the Arguello girl?

REZANOV

She is my kind of person....
And will help make my life complete.
In turn I can fill her needs to the fullest.
Concepcion is a woman
Who will profit by travel...
Who will become worldly wise...
And reach an important place
In the affairs confronting our future.
This young woman
Will carve a great niche
In the area of International Diplomacy.
She has this capability.

LANGSDORFF

I wonder if we will be able to trade
As you most earnestly desire?

REZANOV

If the Padres and the women,
With all the fury they have raised,
Can't effect the trade for me,
Then we have failed.
Another Japan, Langsdorff.

LANGSDORFF

Disastrous!

REZANOV

But, if Arguello will let me marry Concha,
Then ALL my wishes will be fulfilled.

LANGSDORFF

(LOOKING OUT) The skiff is nearly here.

REZANOV

(RUSHING TO LOOK OUT)
They don't look too enthusiastic!

LANGSDORFF

Japan?

REZANOV

I hope not! I couldn't stand that.
If NO is the answer,
Then I shall never return to Petersburg,
And the end of my world is here.
But it can't be that!

LANGSDORFF

And if it is success?

REZANOV

Then all will be right,
And I will want you to return with me
To the Court of Alexander,
Where you will be feted
As a part of this great expedition.

LANGSDORFF

No, Excellency.
I have more important work.
My botanical collection,
As important as it is,
You have either refused me time,
Or have destroyed my specimens,
Even here, in California,
Valuable collections you have destroyed.
I will not accompany you.

REZANOV

This we shall talk about another time.

LANGSDORFF

To no avail, Excellency.

REZANOV

Your contract with me demands.....

LANGSDORFF

Your contract with me, Excellency,
Affords me time to continue my work.
I have fulfilled my obligations to you,
But in return...Count von Rezanov,
I have been denied your support (KHVOSTOV ENTERS)

KHVOSTOV

Senor Arguello and Padre Abello.

REZANOV

We shall speak later, Langsdorff.
Show our guests in, Lieutenant.

LANGSDORFF

Later, Excellency. (EXITS) KHVOSTOV EXITS)

REZANOV

Damn the German!
The only thing important
Is the fulfillment of trade relations...
And the marriage of Concepcion,
The Californian,
And Rezanov, the Russian.

ARGUELLO AND PADRE ABELLO ENTER. REZANOV STANDS AND
SHAKES THEIR HANDS...

REZANOV

Welcome to my humble cabin.
Please, be seated.

ARGUELLO

Senor, our decision first!

REZANOV

Of course.

ARGUELLO

(VERY SOLEMN FACED) Would you become a Catholic?

REZANOV

(PAUSE FIRST IN THOUGHT) No, Senor Arguello.
I could not, in my position.
I am an Orthodox.
For eight centuries this has been the way
We Russians have worshiped.
No, Senor!

ARGUELLO

I was afraid this would be your answer.

REZANOV

But this must not stop the marriage!

ARGUELLO

We do not see the same, Senor Rezanov!

REZANOV

But I love your daughter,
And I cannot return to Petersburg
Unless she goes with me.

ARGUELLO

We will allow the marriage.

REZANOV

May God bless you!

ARBELLO

But it must take place later

REZANOV

Later? Impossible!

ARGUELLO

Concha's whole world has been in her religion.
She knows nothing else.

REZANOV

She must learn of the world.
Together we shall encircle the globe,
May even visit the Pope!

ABELLO

You are a kind man, Excellency.
This was taken into account
When the decision was made.

REZANOV

Then you will allow the marriage now?

ARGUELLO

No!

REZANOV

But why? I must return to Petersburg!
I have been away too long,
And the reports I have
Must be given to my Czar.

ABELLO

It was our decision, Excellency,
That the marriage take place
After your return to Yerba Buena.

REZANOV

After?

ABELLO

Yes.

ARGUELLO

First we must have permissions
From Czar Alexander, and the Spanish King,
We must also know the wishes of the Pope.

REZANOV

This would take forever!

ARGUELLO

My daughter is young, Excellency.
From your own admission
You did plan to return, did you not?

REZANOV

Return...why, of course!
This is Concepcion's home.
Naturally we would return, in time.

ABELLO

Then there is no problem.
When you come back you can marry
Provided you get the permissions
We just mentioned.

ARGUELLO

You understand, Excellency,
This is a marriage between two peoples
Of different cultures and beliefs.
We must be sure it is right,
Just as you must be.

ABELLO

How long do you think it will take
Before you can return to Yerba Buena?

REZANOV

Years! Two, maybe three, who knows?

ARGUELLO

It will be a long time,
But you must get permission.
We will allow the ceremony
Only after you return.

REZANOV

Very well,
But I must insist too!

ARGUELLO

(LOOKING AT ARBELLO) What is your request?

REZANOV

That Concepcion and I
Go to your Mission Dolores
And celebrate our Betrothal.

ARGUELLO

Betrothal?

REZANOV

As you say, Senor Arguello,
We are two people,
Differing in many ways,
Including our religion and allegiances.
Therefore a Betrothal between us
Is only a natural thing.
You, Concepcion and your family
Will thus be protected from slanderous thoughts.
I too will be.
And my Czar and your King
Will, by this, recognize our true intentions.

ARGUELLO

Padre?

ABELLO

His Excellency is right, Don Jose.

ARGUELLO

(ALL SMILES) Very well. So be it.
His Excellency, Governor Arillaga,
Sends his wishes,
And he has signed the trade agreement
You submitted.

REZANOV

Thank God!

ARGUELLO

Since you are practically my son-in-law
Ignacia and I insist you stay with us.
This cabin, though fine when you are at sea
Is no fit place to live.
We shall expect you to come ashore.

ABELLO

Arrangements will be made
When you come to the Arguello Hacienda,
To plan the Betrothal of you and Concha.

ARGUELLO GOES TO REZANOV AND EMBRACES HIM

ARGUELLO

I will enjoy having you as my new son!

REZANOV KISSES HIM ON BOTH CHEEKS, RUSSIAN STYLE

REZANOV

I welcome my new family
And your daughter as my wife.

ABELLO

Concha is like you, Excellency!
She is a woman at life's crossroads,
Destined to reach beyond
These small borders of Spain.

REZANOV

I shall take her to the ends of the earth.

END ACT III

SCENE ONE

ACT III

SCENE TWO

THE SCENE IS THE PATEO OF THE ARGUELLO HOME.
ARILLAGA...ARGUELLO...CONCHA...IGNACIA AND
PADRE ABELLO ARE PRESENT. IT IS LATE AFTERNOON.
IGNACIA IS RUNNING AROUND...MARIE IS PREPARING THE
TABLE. ARGUELLO IS UP LOOKING OFF.

ARGUELLO

Nikolai will be here. The boat has landed.

ARILLAGA

Have you made all the arrangements, Padre?

ABELLO

Yes. All is ready.

ARGUELLO

The agreement?

ARILLAGA

I have it.

CONCHA

Nikolai isn't going to have to leave yet?

ARILLAGA

A week maybe.

CONCHA

I wish he didn't have to go.

ARGUELLO

The sooner he leaves....

CONCHA

Yes, I know.

ARGUELLO

Isn't that what you want?

CONCHA

Two years is a long time.
Why must it take two years?
That seems forever.

ARGUELLO

It will pass quickly, Conchita.

ARILLAGA

Before you turn around he will be back.

CONCHA

I turn very quickly, Don Jose.

ABELLO

We have all watched you, Senorita.
But time does pass quickly,
And before you know it....

CONCHA

What if it takes longer?

ARGUELLO

Then we will all wait!

CONCHA

I could die before he returns.

ABELLO

I don't believe this, Concepcion.
He will come back to us
As quickly as ships can carry him.

CONCHA

I wish I were going with him.

ARGUELLO

Under the circumstances, Concha
This is not right.

We must wait for agreements
Between the King and the Czar and the Pope.
We are confident all will be perfect,
But we will wait.

CONCHA

What if it takes a lifetime?

ABELLO

It may, but that too would be right.
Patience, my Daughter!
This is a virtue, and you must live by it.

ENTER LUIS, REZANOV, LANGSDORFF, KHVOSTOV AND
DAVIDOV

REZANOV

Did I overhear you say, Father,
That one must live by virtue?
I am in accord with this.

ABELLO

In God's grace, Excellency.
But there was more.
I also mentioned patience.

REZANOV

(GOING TO CONCHA) Can we be patient, my love?

CONCHA

With you gone from here
It will be difficult.
But then, there is always hope,
Which makes time pass easier.

ARILLAGA

The corn, wheat and fresh meats
Plus all the other food stuffs
Will be ready to load in two days.

ARILLAGA HANDS REZANOV A LARGE PAPER

ARILLAGA

And here, Excellency, is what you sought.
I could no longer refuse your wish
Now that Concha will be your wife.
You will find this paper
Exactly as you dictated it.

REZANOV

You are very generous, Senor.
Your King and my Czar,
When I visit them,
For consideration of our agreement,
Will be given a full report
Of our discussions and conclusions.
And now, I am anxious to leave.
(TO CONCHA) You see, my Dear,
There is much to be done
In the two years before I return.

CONCHA

Two long years!

REZANOV

But productive.
A sound basis for our futures...
And when I return

CONCHA

We will be married!

REZANOV

Yes, my Concha. We will.

IGNACIA

Chocolate is ready.

EVERYONE GOES TO THE TABLES AND GETS CHOCOLATE.

ARGUELLO

This is indeed an honor, Nikolai,
To have our daughter,
Who has travelled but little,
To one day visit His Majesty in Madrid,
And your Czar in Petersburg.

CONCHA

Soon he will be my Czar too!

REZANOV

Don Jose, we will, in time,
Visit all the great capitols
And meet all the Kings and Queens.

CONCHA

Not Japan, Nikolai!

REZANOV

No. Not Japan!
That is a country we can well avoid.

LANGSDORFF

The Japanese are strange people!

Arillaga

In What way?

LANGSDORFF

They think we Europeans,
With all our knowledge and enlightenment,
Are uncivilized.

ARGUELLO

Preposterous!

DAVIDOV

Dr. Langsdorff is right.
They have no regard for Western culture.

REZANOV

They will suffer one day,
For what they did to us.
Imagine holding us in a stockade
For six long months.

CONCHA

I shall be in a stockade
For two long years. (ALL LAUGH)
However, since I know the length of time
It will be easier, Nikolai.
And I won't feel like a prisoner.

IGNACIA

But she will make us think she is! (ALL LAUGH)
After you are married you will find out.

REZANOV

I know the kind of a wife I am getting,
And I want her just as she is.

CONCHA

And I want you too,
Just as YOU are, my Love,
For the rest of our lives.

ABELLO

Your betrothal will be celebrated
Tomorrow morning at the Mission.
My duties call me now. You will excuse me.

LUIS

I will ride with you Padre.

LANGSDORFF

And I too!

KHVESTOV

Lieutenant Davidov and I would also enjoy going.

ABELLO

Until later! (EXEUNT ABELLO, LUIS, LANGSDORFF,
KHVESTOV AND DAVIDOV)

CONCHA

Then, two long years!

REZANOV

Just two, Concha.
And then you will find my arms strong
And my love great.

CONCHA

From out the South a ship will come
To bring my Love from far away,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!
And he will have a contract bold
From King and Czar and Pop~~e~~, all three,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!

REZANOV

And off we'll go around the earth
On sailing ship or carriage fast,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!
The world will spin, and so will we
From then until eternity,
Heigh how...heigh ho!

CONCHA

But, Nikolai Petrovich,
I have many fears.
What if something happened to you?
How would I ever know?

REZANOV

Too much is happening too fast,
And all of it for our good.
Nothing can deter me, Concha.
I will be here!

CONCHA

God make you hurry!

ARGUELLO

Not too fast though, my Son.
We often save time by going slower.

REZANOV

I was born running, Don Jose,
And I have never found walking easy.
I will hurry.

CONCHA

Ah!

REZANOV

What is the matter?

CONCHA

I was suddenly cold.
It was like a sharp pain.
Nikolai...I...I'm frightened.

(REZANOV TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS)

REZANOV

Everything will be alright, my Dear.
There is nothing to worry about.

IGNACIA

Come, Jose. The ball will start in an hour.
There is much preparation.

ARGUELLO

Comfort her, Nikolai.
Spanish women need this, you know.
They are more fragile than we men.

REZANOV

It is the same in Russia and all over the world.

(IGNACIA AND ARGUELLO EXIT)

CONCHA

Tell me you will come back soon.

REZANOV

You do believe this?

CONCHA

Oh yes, Nikolai, with all my heart.

REZANOV

We leave in a few short days,
But my thoughts will remain with you.
Each day and night,
Whenever you wonder about me
You must trust God's will,
For that is what brought me here.

CONCHA

Oh, Nikolai.

REZANOV

And that is what promises my return.

CONCHA

I know this, and yet I fear.
From the time I was a little girl
The word love was spoken,
And I wondered how it would come to me,
In what guise.
I looked for it in many men,
Yet whenever I looked it was never there.
But the morning you arrived I knew.
I knew, because my whole being changed,
And I feared that instant
Something would take you from me.

REZANOV

Nothing, Concha. Just two years....
After that.....

CONCHA

When you tell me I am assured.
Nikolai, I love you,
From now and forever until time ceases to exist.
And I know that our destiny is happiness.

REZANOV

Forever!

END OF

ACT THREE

EPILOGUE

THE SCENE IS A BEDROOM IN THE HOME OF THE GOVERNOR OF KRAZHNAVYARSK IN CENTRAL SIBERIA. REZANOV IS ASLEEP. DOCTOR PETROV AND VASILOV ARE TALKING. DMITRI PAVLOVICH IS STANDING AT THE DOOR. THE ROOM IS ELABORATELY DECORATED. THERE IS A FIRE IN THE FIREPLACE. IT IS MID-WINTER.

PETROV

No, I told him he was too weak.

VASILOV

But why?

PETROV

There was a girl in California.

VASILOV

There is always a girl.

PETROV

I urged him to stay in bed,
At least until he....
But he insisted on going on....
Now...I don't know.

VASILOV

I don't believe that a miracle....

PETROV

We must save him.
The Czar.....

VASILOV

He can't blame us if he doesn't survive.

PETROV

No, but Nikolai Petrovich was close to him.
He will not take it lightly.

VASILOV

I understand the Czar is very compassionate.

PETROV

It depends.
Any Czar you please can be compassionate,
But don't kill his High Chamberlain.

VASILOV

Doctor, I don't like this word.

PETROV

Nor do I, but who knows what a report will be like
By the time it reaches Petersburg?

VASILOV

Doctor Petrov, He must survive!

PETROV

(GOING TO THE BED. PUTS HIS HAND ON REZANOV'S FOREHEAD)
His fever is still high. His forehead is like that fire.
There are no medicines to cure him.

VASILOV

That stupid valet!

PETROV

If he hadn't bled him...maybe this...
I don't know.
He's been sick...exhausted...for too long.
There's no telling.
His Father was my dear friend,
And I knew his Excellency when he was a boy.
I wish I had the answer!

VASILOV

Who was the girl?

PETROV

Ask Dmitri Michaelovich. He told me about her.
Dmitri Mihalch!

DMITRI

Doctor?

PETROV

Who was the girl?

DMITRI

I don't know. Some one in America.
She had a funny name...Concha.
She was not Russian.

PETROV

What did he say about her?

DMITRI

That she was beautiful, and that he loved her.
His Excellency is going to marry her.

VASILOV

His fever is burning him up.

PETROV

He's out of our hands.

DMITRI

How soon will he be ready to travel?

PETROV

(LOCKS AT DMITRI) We men don't know!
Nikolai Petrovich is very ill.

DMITRI

I hope he stays long enough to get well
And not hurry off again.

VASILOV

He will not hurry off, Dmitri Michalach.

PETROV

That German doctor...why didn't he come?

DMITRI

There was an argument.

PETROV

A doctor doesn't give up his responsibility!

DMITRI

His Excellency released him.

VASILOV

That was a grave mistake.

DMITRI

There was only one thing the Chamberlain wanted,
And that was to get to Petersburg,
And to get there as fast as possible.
He would not rest.
We pleaded with him.

"A month or two would not matter," we said,
But his daily command was more speed.
And then, as you know, he fell.
I just hope he rests this time.
His Excellency is not that good a horseman,
And the remaining journey is not easy.

PETROV

No, it is not.

DMITRI

Not at this time of the year.

VASILOV

She must have been beautiful!

DMITRI

At night, as I stood at his door,
He was often delirious,
Talking about her,
Describing her beauty,
Telling her he would be back in two years.
He must love this girl very much!

VASILOV

I wonder if he will live to see her again?

DMITRI

He's determined!

PETROV

Yes, but sometimes that's not enough.
Not when you're as sick as he.

DMITRI

Count Rezanov will live!
I know his kind of man.
He will do what he wants to do.

PETROV

Perhaps!

VASILOV

There is nothing for us here, Doctor,
Until the fever breaks.

PETROV

No!

VASILOV

Then let us go to my office.
I have something there,
About his Excellency's Father.
You may be interested.

PETROV

Indeed I would!

VASILOV

Dmitri Michalch, if there is one bit of change,
If Nikolai Petrovich awakens even,
Come running to my office.
We must know immediately.

DMITRI

I will.

PETROV

We'll be back shortly.

VASILOV

Meanwhile remember to call us.

DMITRI

I will!

PETROV

At the slightest change!

DMITRI

Very well.

EXEUNT VASILOV AND PETROV

THE VOICE OF CONCHA IS HEARD OUTSIDE. DMITRI IS
READING AND DOES NOT HEAR THE SOUND. DURING THE
NEXT SCENE HE HEARS NOTHING EXCEPT WHEN ADDRESSED.

CONCHA

Nikolai.....Nikolai!
I'm waiting for you, Nikolai.
And the days and the nights are lonely.
When will you return?

DMITRI

(GOING TO REZANOV'S BED) Nikolai Petrovich,
You are a strange man.
You are like us Cossacks,
Bold, fearless, determined.
I hope, Excellency,
That if you do establish a colony in America,
Around the Yerba Buena, you talk so much about,
That I can go with you, and serve you.
When you are well,
And we are racing toward Petersburg,
Perhaps we can talk about it.
In the meantime, Excellency, sleep.

CONCHA

(OUTSIDE) Nikolai! (ENTERS GOES TO HIM)
Nikolai, there is so little time to be together.
(DMITRI GOES AND SITS IN CHAIR OPPOSITE BED)
You have been calling me, Nikolai,
And here I am with you.
Open your eyes, Dear.
Remember how you kissed me and held me when we parted?
It seems like ages have passed,
But now we are here at last.

REZANOV

(AWAKENING AND SITTING UP) WHERE AM I!
Dmitri Michaelovich!
Call the guard to saddle.
We must be off!

DMITRI

(JUMPING UP AND GOING TO HIM) Your Excellency!

REZANOV

Make ready to leave.

DMITRI

You are too ill, Nikolai Petrovich!

REZANOV

Now!

DMITRI

Yes, Excellency!

REZANOV

Hurry! I must get back to Yerba Buena.

DMITRI

Right now, Excellency! (HURRIEDLY EXITS)

(REZANOV IS WEAK AND CAN HARDLY SIT UP)

CONCHA

I have been waiting for you.

REZANOV

(BEWILDERED) Waiting?

CONCHA

Over here, Nikolai. (REZANOV TURNS AND SEES CONCHA)

REZANOV *del . . .*

Concha, beloved. I have been hurrying!

CONCHA

I know, but weeks can be eternity.
What did Alexander say?

REZANOV

All is right. He said a great celebration,
In honor of the California beauty,
Is planned, as soon as we can come to Petersburg.

CONCHA

Oh, Nikolai, I am so happy.

REZANOV

Remember, my Dear,
The first day I met you?
We spoke of Vienna...

CONCHA

I remember every moment I have been with you.

REZANOV

You asked if I would make it possible,
Somehow, someday, for you to visit Vienna?

CONCHA

Yes, and you said I must live there,
Because it was the dreamers Paradise.

REZANOV

Well, now you will live there.

CONCHA

Nikolai, son of Peter,
The whole earth will be our Elysian Fields.

REZANOV

But first, Concha, we must return to your home.
I promised your Father, and Governor Arillaga.

CONCHA

They seem like ages away, Nikolai!

REZANOV

But I promised,
And I live by my word.

CONCHA

My God has been kind to us.

REZANOV

Our God. It is the same in both our faiths.
He took me to your little home in California.
It was He who saved my people.

CONCHA

Our people, Nikolai!

REZANOV

Yes. It was He,
Who turned the stubbornness of Arillaga
And helped us fill our boat with food.

CONCHA

And now, Nikolai?

REZANOV

There are just two of us,
And the whole earth,
And the rest of our lives.

CONCHA

From out the North a ship will come,
On it I've found a man to love,
Heigh ho...heigh ho!

REZANOV

We must spend time in Europe, Concha.
However, it may not be our home.
We may live in your Yerba Buena.
It is peaceful there.
In all my life I have never been so happy.
The cares of the world
Disappeared in the sunset,
And the soft breezes
Refreshed and invigorated one.
Russian America is bitter cold,
But Saint Francisco is a dream world.
We could be ecstatically happy there.

CONCHA

Where ever you want to be, Nikolai,
That is where we'll live.
In Europe, or America or even Siberia,
Where the cold lingers,
And the Winter days are like nights,
Wherever, that will be our home.
Nikolai?

REZANOV

Yes?

CONCHA

What will our children be like?

REZANOV

They will have your beauty
And my fierceness.
They will find peace within themselves
Because they will not want.
They will know the world,
Just as you and I

CONCHA

But I have not been to Vienna yet!

REZANOV

You will. Just wait!

CONCHA

I will, my Love!

REZANOV

I am tired, Concha.
I have travelled far,
And there is much more territory to cover.
Let me rest a few moments.
Wait for me!

CONCHA

I will wait forever, Nikolai,
For you are my life!
I would wait to the end of time!

REZANOV LIES DOWN. CONCHA GOES TO INNER DOOR AND WATCHES HIM. SOON THE VOICES OF THE DOCTORS AND DMITRI ARE HEARD.

PETROV

(OFF) He was out of his head!

DMITRI

(OFF) It seemed like it to me, Doctor.

VASILOV

(OFF) Did he try to get up?

DMITRI

He only moved his head.

CONCHA

Nikolai, I am waiting for you. Rest, my Love.
It will not be long now.

DOCTORS AND DMITRI ENTER. PETROV RUSHES TO REZANOV'S SIDE

PETROV

Nikolai Petrovich, I haven't seen you smile
Since you were a boy.

VASILOV

Thank God, he's better!
Fever gone?

PETROV

(FEELS HEAD. SHOCKED. CHECKS EYES AND PULSE)
Count Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov is dead!

THE THREE MEN CROSS THEMSELVES RUSSIAN STYLE

DMITRI

I wonder if she will ever know?

~~chorus outside~~

God have mercy on his soul!

Let him sit at the right hand of the Father.

Let him know, dear God,

The wisdom of your all loving care.

And have mercy on this man of peace.

END OF PLAY

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